



Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

JANUARY 15, 2007

"Everybody can be great because everybody can serve."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1994 Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, designating the King Holiday as a national day of volunteer service. Instead of a day off from work or school, Congress asked Americans of all backgrounds and ages to celebrate Dr. King's legacy by turning community concerns into citizen action. The King Day of Service brings together people who might not ordinarily meet, breaks down barriers that have divided us in the past, leads to better understanding and ongoing relationships, and is an opportunity to recruit new volunteers for your ongoing work.



Participation in the King Day of Service has grown steadily over the past decade, with hundreds of thousands of Americans each year engaging in projects such as tutoring and mentoring children, painting schools and senior centers, delivering meals, building homes, and reflecting on Dr. King's life and teachings. Many of the projects started on King Day continue to engage volunteers beyond the holiday and impact the community year-round.



Although the scope of the event grows every year, many people still are not aware of the service component of the holiday. By encouraging the participation of as many organizations as possible, we hope to make next year's King Day of Service the biggest and best ever.

How Your Organization Can Help

There are several ways to help. For example, your organization can:

- Sponsor and organize a single service project
- Sponsor and organize a variety of service projects
- Form teams to volunteer
- Encourage friends, colleagues and families to seek out service projects in their hometowns



By doing so, you will help strengthen local communities; bridge social and cultural differences, and demonstrate the compassion and commitment to make a difference and honor Dr. King's memory.

The late Coretta Scott King embraced the King Day of Service as a meaningful way to celebrate and honor her husband's legacy. She said, "The greatest birthday gift my husband could receive is if people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds celebrated the holiday by performing individual acts of kindness through service to others."



The King Day of Service has grown steadily from a local project to a nationwide movement, which perpetuates the life and teachings of one of America's great heroes. Please join us in making the January 15, 2007 King Day of Service a celebration in which tens of millions of people serve their communities in his honor.

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** ★ ★ ★ ★

1201 New York Ave., NW ★ Washington, DC 20525 ★ 202-606-5000

www.mlkday.gov

USA ★
Freedom Corps
Make a Difference. Volunteer.